

SEXUAL ABUSE IN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SPOTLIGHT MOVIE (2015)

DIRECTED BY TOM MC CARTHY:

A RECEPTION THEORY



Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Master

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Abstract

This study belongs to the literary study. This study analyzes sexual abuse in Catholic Church in *Spotlight* Movie (2015) Directed by Tom MC Carthy: A Reception Theory. There are two objectives of study, the first is to describe the dominant issue by the reviewers to Tom McCarthy's *Spotlight* movie. The second is to describe the background of reviewer response to *Spotlight* movie. This study is qualitative study and using two data sources; they are primary and secondary data. The primary data source is the reviews of *Spotlight* movie (2015) by Tom MC Carthy from IMDb (Internet Movie Database). The secondary data of this study are taken from other sources such as literary book, previous studies, articles, journals, and also website related to a reception theory. The writer focuses on the cultural reader response theory that analyzes the data.

Keywords: *Culture Reader Response, A Reception Theory, Richard Beach, Spotlight, Sexual abuse, Catholic Church*

Abstrak

Studi ini termasuk dalam studi sastra. Studi ini menganalisis pelecehan seksual gereja Katolik di *Spotlight* Movie (2015) disutradarai oleh Tom MC Charty menggunakan resepsi teori. Ada beberapa tujuan studi, yang pertama adalah untuk menggambarkan isu yang dominan oleh pengulas terhadap film *Spotlight* Tom MC Carthy. Yang kedua adalah mendiskripsikan latar belakang respons reviewer terhadap film *Spotlight*. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dan menggunakan sumber data; yaitu data primer dan sekunder. Sumber data utama adalah ulasan film *Spotlight* (2015) oleh Tom MC Carthy dari IMDb (Internet Movie Database). Data sekunder dari penelitian ini diambil dari sumber lain seperti buku sastra, penelitian terdahulu, artikel, jurnal, dan juga situs web yang berkaitan dengan teori resepsi sastra. Penulis berfokus pada teori budaya respon pembaca.

Kata kunci: *Respon Pembahasan Budaya, Teori Resepsi Sastra, Spotlight, Pelecehan Seksual, Gereja Katolik*

1. INTRODUCTION

Spotlight movie was one movie that reveals the dark side of deviant behavior Catholic priest at a church in Boston. Sexual abuse of children is an act that is not justified. That behavior is dishonorable. Sexual harassment is getting a lot done in all countries of the world. This is something bad

behavior. Definition of child sexual abuse is any type of sexual contact between an adult to anyone who is under 18 years old.

Crimes by some priests in the Catholic Church in Boston become an interesting issue the world after the collapse of the WTC buildings. Child abuse committed against children and the poor living American streets. Child sexual abuse happens because children are forced or persuaded. Unfortunately, many children do not realize or understand what actions are required to himself. Difficult to detect a child is sexually abused. Most of them are afraid to express it because they think it is caused by the mistakes they committed. Children are also often intimidated perpetrators that their story would not be believed that they are afraid to tell. Spotlight movie illustrates that the disclosure of sexual abuse cases occur when victims are adults. This means that cases of sexual abuse happened a long time and the church does not give strict punishment to the perpetrators of sexual crimes. The victims in the city of Boston much get compensation from the church to close the case of sexual abuse committed by priests in the city of Boston. The emergence of this case from something small into large scale. After the incident in Boston, recognition of sexual crimes by the victim in the media increasingly widespread. This is happening in America and around the world. Spotlight movie is one of works of literature. The movie will be researched using reader response story by Richard Beach. The writer focuses on the cultural reader response theory that analyzes the data. The writer chooses this theory because it focuses on meaning or interpretation analysis.

There are some studies about reader response and another research talk about child sexual abuse. Katherine Anne Donahue brings issue about a case study of televised historical drama's influence on audiences' perception of the past. The object of the research is Theatre program Downton Abbey. The theory uses a reception analysis approach with qualitative method. Another research is Melissa Ann .She brings issue about Child Sexual abuse within the Catholic Church. The object of the research is Minnesota Child Victims Act. The theory uses exploratory study with qualitative method. Another researcher

is Stacey M. Overholt. She brings issue about a generic, Narrative and audience reception analysis of true blood. The object of the research is HBO's drama series True Blood. The theory uses the theoretical lenses of genre, narrative, and audience reception with qualitative method.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Research method is important in this research. This chapter involves some aspects related to the research type, research object, data and data source, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. Qualitative research properly seeks answers to questions by examining various social settings and the individuals who inhabit these settings (Berg, 2001:6). Qualitative techniques allow researchers to share in the understandings and perceptions of others and to explore how people structure and give meaning to their daily lives. The formal object, the researcher takes how is the reader response to Tom McCarthy's Spotlight movie (2015). Primary data are the main data that used in research. The data are taken from the reviewers of Spotlight movie (2001) by Tom McCarthy from IMDb website. Secondary data is another data that support primary data in research. The data are taken from the literature on theory of reader response, including reference and articles related to study are taken from books and websites.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Finding

According to Richard Beach in A Teacher's Introduction to Reader – Response Theories, there are five reader response strategies; textual, experiential, psychological, social and cultural. But, this research focuses on the cultural reader response. According to Beach (1993:8) stated that “cultural reader response strategies focus on how readers ‘cultural roles, attitudes, values, or historical context shape response’”. The research focuses on the response of reviewers about the cultural roles, attitudes, or historical contexts responses. The writer focuses on five issues, movie production, mass media,

catholic religion, catholic priest on sexual abuse and child abuse. The researcher want to know reviewers' statement about spotlight movie that they wrote in IMDb based on some countries. There are 442 user reviews that come from many different countries (2016-2017). They comment what their opinions related to the story of the movie. For detail explanation, the reviewer breakdown the reviewers based on the country and year.

Spotlight movie has many reviewers. They are come from some countries in this world. There are 52 reviewers. The reviewers for this research are taken from 2016 year and 2017 year.

No	Country	Reviewers	%
1.	America	18	34,615 %
2.	Australia	5	9,615 %
3.	India	3	5,769 %
4.	United Kingdom	2	3,846 %
5.	Germany	2	3,846 %
6.	Ireland	2	3,846 %
7.	Switzerland	1	1,923 %
8.	New Zealand	1	1,923 %
9.	Bulgaria	1	1,923 %
10.	Italy	1	1,923 %
11.	Norway	1	1,923 %
12.	Ecuador	1	1,923 %
13.	Brazil	1	1,923 %
14.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	1,923 %
15.	Romania	1	1,923 %
16.	Philippines	1	1,923 %
17.	France	1	1,923 %
18.	Russia	1	1,923 %
19.	Egypt	1	1,923 %
20.	Argentina	1	1,923 %
21.	Monaco	1	1,923 %
22.	Denmark	1	1,923 %
23.	United Arab Emirates	1	1,923 %
24.	Portugal	1	1,923 %
25.	Spain	1	1,923 %
26.	Ukraine	1	1,923 %

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No	Issue Category	Amount	%
1	Movie Production	31	39,744 %
2	Mass media	24	30,769 %
3	Religion	10	12,821 %
4	Catholic Priest on Sexual Abuse	6	7,692 %
5	Child abuse	7	8,974 %

The first issue category is Movie production. Movie production is about matters relating to the movie production process from the beginning of the filming of this latest film. According reviewer's opinion about Movie production issue, the writer chooses 31 people with different background of country.

The second issue category is mass media issue. The function of newspaper into mass media issues in the community becomes interesting. This has a wide impact on society and the Church. People become aware that child abuse can happen anywhere. According reviewer's opinion about mass media issue, the writer chooses 24 people with different background of country. This movie takes the courage to uncover a very bad event in the Catholic Church. It is very influential in today's society. Sexual harassment is a bad thing. This bad thing even as if covered by the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church should be able to set a good example for people to feel comfortable when they are going to do their church worship. This film illustrates to us the high dedication of journalists who are working for the truth.

The third issue category is religion issue. The study is focus in catholic religion Religion in the movie gives a good impression. All religions teach goodness. Through film, the role of religion as one of the things that gives positive impact depends on the viewer's perspective. Some films often use religion as a solution in a story. Catholic is one of the world's largest religions. Catholic religion is based in the Vatican. The Catholic Church has many around the world. Catholic is one of the major religions in America. Spotlight movie give viewers condition of Catholic problems about Catholic priest on sexual abuse. According reviewer's opinion about Religion issue, the writer chooses 10 people with different background of country.

The fourth issue is Catholic Priest on Sexual Abuse. Catholic Priest on Sexual Abuse is a bad action. This has a negative impact on the Catholic Church. In 2002, the Boston Globe released reports disclosing allegations of child sexual abuse by priests and the efforts by the Catholic Church to cover up. According reviewer's opinion about Catholic Priest on Sexual Abuse issue, the writer chooses 6 people with different background of country.

The Fifth issue category is Child abuse. All sexually abusive acts are acts of sexual violence (Easteal in Medley, 2001:7). Child Abuse is a bad thing. Child abuse wherever is things to be stopped. Child abuse has a bad impact on victims. We should fight child abuse together. According reviewer's opinion about child abuse issue, the writer chooses 7 people with different background of country.

3.2. Discussion

The researcher is interested in answering the Reader Response in Tom McCarthy's Spotlight movie (2007). The detail objectives are as follows. The First, describe the dominant issue by the reviewers to Tom McCarthy's Spotlight movie. Second, describe the background of reviewer response to Spotlight movie. After being interpreted, it comes to the discussion about the culture reader response which is applied on the Spotlight movie. This movie is part of the culture.

The First, the research will discuss the dominant issue by the reviewers to Tom McCarthy's Spotlight movie. The dominant issue by the reviewers to Tom McCarthy's Spotlight are as follows: movie production, social media , religion, Catholic Priest on Sexual Abuse and Victims of Sexual abuse.

Sexual harassment is behavior approaches that are associated with the desired sex, including the demand for sex, and other behaviors being verbally or physically refer to sex. Sexual harassment can happen anywhere either public place such as bus, market, school, office, or in a private place like home. Although in general women are often under the spotlight as a victim of sexual abuse but sexual abuse can happen to anyone. Victims of sexual abuse could be a male or female. Victims could be the opposite sex of the harasser or the same sex. Perpetrators of sexual harassment can be anyone regardless of gender, age, education, cultural values, religious values, citizens, background, or social status. Victims of social harassment behaviour are encouraged to record every incident, including the identity of the perpetrator, locations, times, places, witnesses and behaviors that do are considered offensive and reporting it to the authorities. The witness can be a person who heard or saw the incident or the person who will be informed of events as they happen. Victims are also encouraged to show the attitude of disaffection would be harassment.

The movie is based on true stories always give a tremendous impact. Spotlight movie gives an overview to the viewers about the dark side of the Catholic Church. This is the dark side of sexual abuse by catholic priests. This film has many facets to learn. This scandal was revealed because there was interference from the local newspaper Boston Globe. Quickly, journalists interviewed various parties; victims, lawyers, and even pastors. They also collect data from the courts, dioceses, and related old news. As a result, the investigative team found 249 pedophile priests with thousands of children as victims. Indeed, the action of these pastors has started its action since 1976. And ironically, the church and law enforcement authorities conspired to cover it up, until it was revealed 26 years later.

The incidence of abuse of children by priests catholic embarrassed the Catholic Church. Global spotlight on systematic efforts of the Catholic Church to cover up widespread sexual abuse of children by priests began to spark ideas in Boston news agency. The chronology of the story outlined in the movie "Spotlight" which earned six Oscar nominations, including Best Picture this year. In 2002, the editor of the Boston Globe Marty Baron, played by LievSchreiber, gave the assignment to Spotlight, a team of investigative journalists to the newspaper, to investigate evidence that the more that pastors Boston molested children in six different parishes for thirty years. The film shows that the Baron wanted to prove Spotlight team echelon of systemic corruption in the Archdiocese of Boston is higher. He wants to prove that the church manipulate the system so that the priests involved do not need to cope with the demands by repeatedly moving them to a different parish. The film's director Tom McCarthy accurately describes the Spotlight team's courage to pound the most powerful institution in Boston, the Catholic Church. Baron, newly appointed chief editor of the newspaper, not the children of Boston and was not Catholic, so she was able to look at the problem with fresh eyes. In addition to Best Film, Spotlight has been nominated for Best Director, Best Editing, Best Original Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor and Actress for Mark Ruffalo and Rachel McAdams as journalist Michael Rezendes and Sacha.

The Second, the researcher will discuss the background of reviewer response to Spotlight movie. There are 442 reviewers and the researcher focus on 52 reviewers. Based on the data United States of America has many reviewers than another country. America has 18 reviewers.

Reviewers from America have their own opinion. On the other hand there are those who comment well and others comment badly about the movie. The real occurrence of child abuse that occurred in America made many Americans to argue about the Spotlight movie. They feel the need to appreciate the Spotlight movie. Most opinions are still in movie production. Positive opinion considers the director of movie to be an interesting treat for a

movie based on a true story. And do not forget also that this movie has a lot of good players too. They consider that this film is very important to watch. This film is very helpful for Americans to see the other side of priests and Catholic Church.

Negative commentators only based on about movie production that they consider less attractive and less powerful. They argue that this movie does not deserve an Oscar award.

The second country with the most reviewers is Australia. Australia has 5 reviewers in this research. Australia was once a subordinate of the United Kingdom. Catholic also became one of the major religions in Australia. This is interesting, because with the disclosure of the church scandal in Boston, finally revealed also scandal church in Australia. They argue that this movie has a good effect on society. Spotlight movie gives an idea that the incidence of child abuse can occur outside of America. They argue that Spotlight movie deserves an Oscar award.

The third premier Reviewer is India. Catholic is not the biggest religion in India. Reviewers from India are 3 reviewers. Their background was once a British colony. Thus, the role of Catholic has existed since the British colonial era. Some of them focus on movie production and sexual abuse.

Other reviewers from another country focus in movie production and sexual abuse. The background of their country is national, democratic, republic, communist and religion state. Some of their country has many Catholic Church. Some of them also give attention to sexual abuse in their country.

In this research, the director of movie gives us describing about the function of press. The first function of the press is function of broadcasting information (to inform). Broadcasting information is the first and foremost function of the press, the reader subscribing or buying newspapers because it requires information about things on earth, about events that occur, ideas or thoughts of others, what others do, what others say and others. Spotlight movie tells us about the dangers of sexual crimes. This movie also gives us a

picture of the effects that occur if sexual violence to children can cause various problems in society.

The second is function of educating (to educate). As a means of mass education, the newspapers and magazines contain writings that contain knowledge so that the reader's audience increases its knowledge. This educational function can be implicit in the form of articles or editorials. Sometimes serialized or pictorial news also contains aspects of education. Spotlight movie gives us many valuable lessons. First we must fight the crime of sexual wherever located. Protect children from the dangers of sexual crimes. Spotlight movie also gives a message to do not easily believe in new people.

The third is function entertaining (to entertain). Things that are entertainment are often published by newspapers and magazines to compensate for heavy news (news) and articles that are weighted for the contents of newspapers and magazines that are entertainment can take the form of short stories, serialize, picture story, puzzle Cross, corner, caricature, not infrequently also news that contain human interest (human interest) and sometimes editorial. A good movie is a movie that can entertain the audience. Spotlight movie gives a good impression to the audience.

The fourth is function of influence (to influence) this influencing function causes the press to play an important role in people's lives. The influential function in the dreaded newspaper is an independent newspaper, free to express an opinion, free to exercise social control. The influencing function of the newspaper is implicitly contained in the editorial and articles. Spotlight movie serves as one of the media that can affect social phenomena in the community. With the emergence of spotlight movie in world cinemas can help the Catholic community and the Catholic Church to immediately improve the system in the Catholic Church. In order that the incidence of sexual crimes within the Catholic Church can be eliminated forever.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion, the researcher draws several conclusions. Firstly, there are five issues variation. The dominant of the issue variation is movie production. Movie production is more commented on by viewers. The viewer's prefer to comment on the players and the storyline. Most viewers consider that this movie deserves a champion in Oscar because of the player, the interesting story and the real story. The second dominant issue is Mass media. In this case the issue appeared and commented on the audience is about journalism. They argued about the courage of journalists to uncover a major case in the Catholic Church. The third dominant issue is religion. They argue about sexual crimes committed by pastors in the Catholic Church. They denounced the conduct of the priests as inappropriate and unsuitable for anyone to imitate. They hope the Catholic Church to immediately fix the system. The fourth is Catholic Priest on Sexual Abuse. They argue that priest who commits sexual crimes is punished according to the law. They hope that the church can properly monitor and control its pastors. The fifth is Child abuse. Child abuse should be stopped immediately. Children should get protection from parents, community and country. The government should provide a sense of comfort to the people and work to prevent the crime of sexual violence to children.

The movie also talks about journalistic and press. The press or journalistic work field essentially has the function of providing informers, entertainers, controllers (social control tools), and community educators. With these functions the press has a considerable influence on society. As a reformer agent, the press can play its great role in the process of social change taking place in a society or a nation. Through the information as a result of journalism work presented to the public reader (public), the press can stimulate the decision-making process in the community, and help accelerate the process of transition from traditional thinking to the modern mind and attitude of modern society. The press can serve as a 'great power' in influencing, stimulating, changing behavior, and mobilizing society.

Especially in mobilizing the community to take actions positive and useful for life, such as moving the community to participate actively involved in compound mobility and development activities in all sectors. On the contrary, the press may be 'distorted' to mobilize the community to take actions that are destructive, negative or other useless acts. This movie also gives us entertainment for people. The movie gives us education to fight against sexual crimes to children. The Movie brings us to dare to speak out against sexual evil committed in Catholic churches and elsewhere in the world.

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